



Risen Christ Lutheran Church
13th Sunday after Pentecost Worship
August 23, 2026 10am

As you enter the sanctuary, please use these moments for quiet prayer and preparation as we gather in the presence of the Lord to receive His gifts.

THEREFORE...
By the Mercies of God

— ∞ —

**GOD'S MERCY FIRST,
OUR LIVES AS THANKFUL LIVING SACRIFICES**

ROMANS 11:33–12:8

*"For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.
To Him be glory forever. Amen."*

ROMANS 11:36

Risen Christ Lutheran Church
46250 Ann Arbor Road Plymouth, MI 48170
734.453.5252 www.risenchrist.info

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – Celebrated on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. We believe that Christ's true body and blood are received in the Sacrament for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith. Because Scripture also warns against receiving the Sacrament in an unworthy manner, communicants should repent of their sins, trust Christ's words and promises, and desire to forgive and live in Christian love toward others. Baptized Christians who share this confession and have examined themselves are welcome to commune with us. Please speak with Pastor Rennie if you have questions. The bread is distributed before the individual and common cups of wine. White nonalcoholic wine is located in the center of the tray.

OFFERING – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR GUESTS – Welcome! We are grateful that you are worshiping with us. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Indicate on the card whether you would appreciate a call or other contact from Pastor Rennie.

Large Print Bulletins – Available from an usher.

Listening Assistance Devices – Available at the Sound Booth.

Parent Room – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby ("Narthex")

For Children – Children's Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

As We Gather – Today Paul moves from praise to Christian living with one enormously important word: "therefore." After proclaiming the riches of God's mercy in Christ, Paul calls us to present ourselves as living sacrifices, not to earn God's favor, but because His favor has already been given to us in Christ. Our worship, service, generosity, and life together flow from what God has first done for us. Therefore, with Paul, we praise Him: "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever."

Welcome and Announcements

Way Maker

You are here moving in our midst
I worship You I worship You
You are here working in this place
I worship You I worship You

***CHORUS: (You are) Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper
Light in the darkness my God
that is who You are***

You are here touching ev'ry heart
 I worship You I worship You
 You are here healing ev'ry heart
 I worship You I worship You
 You are here turning lives around
 I worship You I worship You
 You are here mending ev'ry heart
 I worship You yeah I worship You Lord **CHORUS**

TAG: That is who You are
 That is who You are
 That is who You are
 That is who You are

BRIDGE: Even when I don't see it You're working
 Even when I don't feel it You're working
 You never stop You never stop working
 You never stop You never stop working **CHORUS**

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Invocation and Opening Sentences

Psalm 29:1–2, 11; 96:3–4a

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**
- P** Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- C** **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.**
- P** Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!
- C** **For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised.**
- P** May the LORD give strength to His people!
- C** **May the LORD bless His people with peace!**

Confession and Absolution

- P** Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.
- C** **Gracious God, with contrition and repentance we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful and unclean. Daily we have sinned and done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your servants. We indeed deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is not in ourselves but in the merits of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us remission of all our sins and by the power of the Holy Spirit at work within our hearts and lives lead us into ways that reflect Your goodness and love.**
- P** God is gracious and merciful and hears our supplications. By the command of our Lord and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C** **Amen.**

Introit

Psalm 2:6–7; 117; antiphon: Psalm 115:18

L But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

C As for Me, I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill.

L I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to Me, “You are My Son; today I have begotten You.”

C Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol Him, all peoples!

L For great is His steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!

**C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

L But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the LORD!

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom to know is everlasting life, grant us to know Your Son, Jesus, to be the way, the truth, and the life that we may boldly confess Him to be the Christ and steadfastly walk in the way that leads to life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 51:1–6

¹“Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD:
look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug.

²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him.

³For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places
and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴“Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation;
for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵My righteousness draws near, my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will judge the peoples; the coastlands hope for me,
and for my arm they wait.

⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment,
and they who dwell in it will die in like manner;
but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 138

C I give You thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing Your praise;

I I bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to Your name for Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness, for You have exalted above all things Your name and Your word.

II On the day I called, You answered me; my strength of soul You increased.

C All the kings of the earth shall give You thanks, O LORD, for they have heard the words of Your mouth, and they shall sing of the ways of the LORD, for great is the glory of the LORD.

I For though the LORD is high, He regards the lowly, but the haughty He knows from afar.

II Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You preserve my life; You stretch out Your hand against the wrath of my enemies, and Your right hand delivers me.

C The LORD will fulfill His purpose for me; Your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of Your hands.

Epistle

Romans 11:33—12:8

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

³⁴"For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?"

³⁵"Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?"

³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

L This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Verse

Ephesians 2:19b–20

P Alleluia. You are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

C built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 16:13–20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Amazing Grace

1. Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found.
Was blind, but now I see.

2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

3. Thro' many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

4. And when this flesh and heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess within the veil
a life of joy and peace.

5. When we've been there ten thousand
years,
bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we've first begun.

Sermon – "Therefore... By the Mercies of God" *Romans 11:33–12:8*

1. We Can Never Put God in Our Debt

- We naturally want to turn even grace into a transaction: "God does something for me, and I will do something for Him."
- But Paul asks, "Who has given a gift to Him that he might be repaid?"
- The Law closes every mouth: we cannot save ourselves, earn righteousness, or make God owe us anything.

2. God's Mercy Comes First

- Paul spends eleven chapters declaring what God has done for sinners before he ever says, "Therefore."
- Christ obeyed where we failed, bore our sin, gave His body over to death, and rose again for our salvation.
- Before we are called to present ourselves to God, Christ has already presented Himself for us.

3. Therefore... Present Your Whole Life

- "By the mercies of God" comes before "present your bodies as a living sacrifice."
- The Christian life is not one religious compartment among many. Christ has redeemed the whole person.
- We belong to Him at church, at home, at work, in our relationships, with our money, with our words, and when no one else is watching.

4. Be Transformed, Not Conformed

- The world presses us into its mold, and our sinful flesh is all too willing to cooperate.
- The Holy Spirit renews our minds through God's Word.
- We never graduate from grace: we begin in mercy, continue in mercy, die in mercy, and rise in mercy.

5. Grace Makes Us One Body

- Christians do not belong only to Christ; in Christ we also belong to one another.
- God gives different gifts for service, teaching, encouragement, generosity, leadership, and mercy.
- Buildings, budgets, and decisions matter... but they are not the Church. The Church is Christ's people, called and gathered by the Gospel around His Word and Sacraments.

6. Christ Gives Himself Before We Give Ourselves

- At His Table, Christ again comes first: "Take, eat... This is My body, given for you."
- He forgives us, feeds us, and strengthens us before sending us out to love and serve.
- We present ourselves as living sacrifices not to purchase mercy, but because mercy has already purchased us.

Sermon Theme: Grace first. Mercy first. Christ first. Therefore, by the mercies of God, we are free to live as His redeemed people.

The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed

P It is by the grace of God that we are called and gathered into the fellowship of the church where the Holy Spirit enlightens us and God's glory is known. Together we speak the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed and its meaning as given by Martin Luther in the Small Catechism.

C **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

P What does this mean?

C **I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.**

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

Offering – ONLINE GIVING is available at **www.RisenChrist.info** – Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a **Worship Card** so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Merciful Father, from You and through You and to You are all things. We thank You for every good gift You first place into our hands. Receive now the tithes and offerings we have brought before You, not as payment for Your mercy, which is already ours freely in Christ, but as grateful sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving. Bless these gifts and use them for the proclamation of Your Gospel, the work of Your Church, and the service of our neighbors in need. And by Your Holy Spirit, teach us to present not only our gifts, but our whole lives as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to You through Jesus Christ. Lord, in mercy hear us.

P We pray for the church, that God's people may live confidently and joyfully share the message of salvation in word and deed. And we pray for this gathering of God's holy people, that we be blessed with all grace and evidence the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. Lord, in mercy hear us.

P We pray for our families and for those who share in our Christian fellowship and join with us in worship and for all who are part of the household of faith. Also we pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are hospitalized or homebound, those who are grieving at this time, the unemployed and underemployed, and all those whose needs are known to us, [*especially...*]. As Your people, grant that we may bring Your blessing to situations of need in all places. Lord, in mercy hear us.

P Merciful God, we thank You for all those faithful people whose words and actions have guided us in the past, especially remembering those no longer with us on earth, who have been called to glory and now share in Your eternal presence. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, direct us to walk Your servant way throughout our lives until that day when we stand in Your splendid presence in heaven. Lord, in mercy hear us.

C Amen.

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have called us as Your people and have shown us Your kindness. Confident of Your love and assured of Your mercy, we come before You, asking that we may receive Your blessings with heartfelt thanksgiving. Pour out upon us the gift of Your Holy Spirit and grant that we may receive the body and blood of our Lord as a guarantee of our salvation and a foretaste of the feast to come in Your glorious eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sanctus



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san-na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is He who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. Send us Your Holy Spirit, the Spirit who brings to life the power of Jesus Christ. Bless us, Your children, that we who partake of Christ's holy body and precious blood may be strengthened for service in the name of Christ. Fill us with Your heavenly peace and joy, so that we may live in the hope of an eternity in Your glorious kingdom.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

P O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

C Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei



C Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the sin of the



world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, You take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion

Give Me Jesus

1. In the morning when I rise
In the morning when I rise
In the morning when I rise
Give me Jesus

CHORUS: Give me Jesus

Give me Jesus

***You can have all this world
(But give me Jesus)***

2. And when I am alone
Oh and when I am alone
And when I am alone
Give me Jesus **CHORUS**

3. And when I come to die
Oh and when I come to die
And when I come to die
Give me Jesus **CHORUS**

CCLI Song # 3295728

Fernando Ortega

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Just as I Am, Without One Plea

1. Just as I am, without one plea
But that Thy blood was shed for me
And that Thou bid me come to Thee
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2. Just as I am and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3. Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fighting and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in Thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5. Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6. Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken every barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give You thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet that You have given us to eat and to drink in this Sacrament. Through this gift You have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By Your Holy Spirit, give us grace to live as Your beloved people until that day when You will receive us as Your guests in glory at the eternal Table of Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C Amen.

Living Hope

1. How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness
Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished the end is written
Jesus Christ my living hope

2. Who could imagine so great a mercy
What heart could fathom such boundless grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own
Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ my living hope **CHORUS**

CHORUS: Hallelujah
praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me
(REPEAT)
Jesus Yours is the victory whoa **CHORUS**

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Benedicamus and Benediction

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**
P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
C **Amen.**

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